



# News Release

## IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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Release 2005-2

### **Water Right Holders Respond To Invitation for Offer to Sell**

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Boise, Idaho - January 10, 2005

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30 Southern Idaho Water Right Holders have submitted offers to sell their water rights to the Idaho Water Resource Board on behalf of the State of Idaho, part of an overall plan under consideration to stabilize supply and demand for water on the Eastern Snake River Plain. The deadline to respond to the invitation expired last Friday, January 7, 2005.

The offers come from water right holders who irrigate more than 60,000 acres of land, which represents at least 190,000 acre-feet of water.

“This is a good start,” said IDWR Director Karl Dreher. “We should be able to secure more than enough water to satisfy the 60,000 acre-feet the Bureau of Reclamation has been authorized to acquire for Endangered Species Act purposes pursuant to the Nez Perce Agreement, making more water available to meet irrigation demands and other purposes.”

The Water Resource Board will soon begin negotiations with the water right holders on purchase prices.

Under the water rights acquisition component of the plan known as the “Strawman Proposal”, the state would acquire as much as 280,000 acre-feet of water rights. To meet the target, Dreher says there is a chance a second invitation to sell, could go out at a later date.

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